

Application No.: 10/573637
Filing Date: March 28th 2006

REMARKS

All claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable, over JP2004090829 in view of Fero et al., either by themselves or in view of additional references.

However, neither of these references qualifies as prior art with respect to the present application. Fero et al. is a U.S patent based on application having a filing date of June 2, 2004 and JP2004090829 has a publication date of March 25, 2004. The present application has a priority date of September 29, 2003. A translation of the Japanese priority application and "VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION" are attached.

All of the presently pending claims are fully supported by the disclosure of the priority documents. As shown in the attached, the claims in the translation of the Japanese priority application are quite similar to the claims in the present application. Since neither JP2004090825 nor Fero et al. qualify as prior art, none of the rejections based on these references can be sustained. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

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CONCLUSION

In the light of the Applicant's Remarks, it is respectfully submitted the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: March 10, 2008

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